

**KENDRICK PARK DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, February 10, 2011**  
**6:00 PM – Open House**  
**7:00 PM – Presentation, public comment and discussion**  
**Pole Room, Bangs Center**  
**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Peg Roberts, Marilyn Rodzwell, Peter Blier, Susan Sheldon, Hope Crolius, Alan Snow and Christina Mata

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Liz Rosenberg

**STAFF PRESENT:** John Musante, Town Manager  
Dave Ziomek, Director, Conservation and Development;  
Linda Chalfant, Director, LSSE;  
Christine Brestrup, Senior Planner  
Fire Chief Tim Nelson  
Police Chief Scott Livingstone

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### **Open House**

During the Open House, committee members were stationed around the Pole Room, available to speak with members of the public about the three alternative concept plans for the design of Kendrick Park. These plans had been developed by the consultants, The Cecil Group, with the support and guidance of the Kendrick Park Design Advisory Committee.

The alternative concept plans, Alternatives A, B and C, dated February 10, 2011, were on display on poster boards, along with an aerial photograph showing existing conditions at the park. Members of the public walked around the room and asked questions and made comments on the concept plans. They were asked to sign in when they arrived and were handed comment sheets on which they could make notes, rank the alternative plans and provide additional comments as desired. The comment sheets were collected at the end of the evening. The comments and rankings were later compiled and provided to committee members and to the consultants to guide them as they moved forward to develop a preferred concept plan.

### **Presentation, public comment and discussion**

John Musante, Town Manager, welcomed the group and offered opening remarks about the process of design for Kendrick Park. Mr. Musante noted that Kendrick Park has been “60 years in the making”. George and Jenny Kendrick set up a trust in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century for the purpose of purchasing the land and donating the land to the town for use as a park. He talked about hopes for the future and noted that the town would be applying for grants to complete design and construction of the park. He noted that this park project would tie into the other projects on which the town is currently working including the Gateway Project and efforts to revitalize the downtown area.

Peg Roberts, Chair of the Kendrick Park Design Advisory Committee (KPDAC), offered opening remarks. She gave a summary of the history of the project and reported on the work of the Kendrick Park Committee, which began its work in early 2008. The Kendrick Park Committee had 20 members and worked together for 15 months to develop a vision and goals for Kendrick Park. The committee divided itself into subcommittees to look at different aspects of the park design. They

worked with two UMass classes to develop designs for the park. The Hadley Garden Center donated about \$4000 worth of plants to the park. The 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee provided over 650 bulbs for the park. In May 2009 the Report to the Town Manager was completed and submitted to former Town Manager, Larry Shaffer.

Ms. Roberts reported that Requests for Proposal for a design consultant were sent out in the spring of 2010 and the town received 13 responses to the RFP. After a series of interviews, The Cecil Group was chosen from among the 13 respondents.

Ms. Roberts explained the evening's agenda and talked about how the comment form would be used.

Christina Mata, member of the KPDAC, talked about the public outreach process that began in 2008 and which involved many different groups in town. Included in these groups were neighbors, businesses, school representatives, students and the general public. Public notices were published in the local paper, along with survey forms to solicit input. Several public meetings were held. There was a lot of input from teenagers as a result of a pizza party held at Bertucci's to seek the teenagers' comments. Ms. Mata talked about public comments that had been received to date and noted that public input had been logged on an Excel spreadsheet. Comments from the Disability Access Advisory Committee and the Agricultural Commission were also sought. She also gave a general statement about the Report to the Town Manager, dated May 2009, that had been developed and presented to Town Manager, Larry Shaffer.

Susan Sheldon, member of the KPDAC, reviewed the Park Program of Activities that had been developed by The Cecil Group and the KPDAC, based the work of the Kendrick Park Committee and on public input that had been received since early 2008. The issue of public restrooms was discussed but the committee decided that, although this issue needs to be addressed in the future, committee members didn't think that Kendrick Park was the place to put a public restroom. Gateways were considered to be very important in welcoming people into the park.

Steve Cecil and David O'Connor of The Cecil Group gave a presentation about the Existing Conditions, Site Analysis and Tree Inventory that had been done for Kendrick Park. They talked about special issues, assets and limitations of the park and mentioned the effort to save existing trees. Mr. Cecil and Mr. O'Connor then presented the three alternative Conceptual Plans.

Alan Root asked to have the concept plans put up on the town website. He expressed his opinion that skateboarding should not be welcome in the park.

There was discussion about ways to keep the park from becoming an attractive nuisance for skateboarders without banning them entirely. Design changes can discourage skateboarders where their activities would conflict with the activities of others.

There was discussion about parking on North Pleasant Street and whether angled parking would be better than parallel parking.

Mary Wentworth asked about the size of the skating rink. Mr. Cecil noted that it would probably be smaller than 180 x 70 and that smaller rinks discourage hockey.

Dick Howland stated his belief that cars will not fit on North Pleasant Street if there is parking on both sides.

Mr. Cecil noted that the consultants and committee are considering whether to propose one-way traffic on North Pleasant Street.

Peter Wells asked if it would be practical to daylight Tan Brook.

Mr. Cecil stated that the brook is about 10 feet below the surface of the park. The flows vary depending on the season. He asked if daylighting the brook would provide the park with an amenity or an occasionally empty channel. There is an overall problem of water quality in the brook that goes beyond the confines of Kendrick Park. One scheme acknowledges the existence of Tan Brook by placing stones on the surface to mark its location.

Frank Slegers, a professor of landscape architecture at UMass, noted that daylighting the brook would take up a lot of space.

Mr. Cecil observed that aspects of each alternative might be combined into one preferred alternative. He talked about differences in maintenance over time.

Mr. Cecil mentioned MassWorks Infrastructure Grant Programs, specifically PWED, that might be used to construct some of the infrastructure surrounding the park.

After the presentation, the attendees broke into smaller groups, each one led by a member of the KPDAC. These smaller groups conducted discussions about the three alternative Concept Plans. The group discussions were facilitated by members of the KPDAC, who also took notes on the comments made by the group members.

A brief wrap-up session was held at the end of the group discussions.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Christine M. Brestrup, Senior Planner